



Durham Comprehensive Plan

Chapter 12, Public Safety Element

**Durham City-County Planning Department
Public Hearing Draft, June 24, 2004**

The Durham Comprehensive Plan

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Public Safety Element



Summary of Issues
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and Emergency
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Enforcement

Public safety includes fire protection, emergency medical services, and law enforcement. Fire protection in Durham is provided by a combination of City and County fire fighters. The City of Durham Fire Department has approximately 275 employees that operate out of 14 fire stations, one administrative office, and the fire academy. The City of Durham carries an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 3.

County fire protection is provided by five departments with stations throughout the County. These departments are primarily staffed by volunteers, but full time firefighters, employed by the County, work at the Lebanon and Bethesda Volunteer Fire Departments. The County Fire Marshal's Office provides training and administrative assistance to the volunteer departments.

The Durham County Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is the primary EMS provider for the City and County. Paramedic services are provided from five EMS stations within the City limits and one County ambulance temporarily located at Durham City Fire Station 5 on Chapel Hill Road. Additional locations outside the City limits are the Bahama, Redwood Bethesda, Lebanon, and Parkwood Volunteer Fire Departments. The first three of these Volunteer Fire Departments provide the ambulance and driver and Durham EMS provides a paramedic and equipment. Parkwood Volunteer Fire Department provides its own ambulances and paramedics, and Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department provides first responder assistance only. Additional first responder assistance is provided within the City limits by the Durham Fire Department. The Duke Rescue Squad serves the Duke Campus as a first responder service.

Law enforcement is provided by the City of Durham Police Department and the Durham Sheriff's Office. The Durham Police Department has approximately 475 sworn officers and approximately 100 civilian employees. The Department has five substations located throughout the City in addition to the central station in downtown Durham. The Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement outside the City's corporate limits in addition to serving civil process throughout the County. The Office also provides court security and operates the County Detention Facility. The Sheriff's Office has approximately 120 sworn

officers and 40 civilians. In addition, approximately 215 detention officers and 30 civilians operate the Detention Center. The Sheriff's Office has three substations in addition to its headquarters in the Judicial Building in downtown Durham.

Summary of Issues

- 1. Coordinating Emergency Services with Growth.** Rapid response is a key component of insuring the safety of Durham's citizens. Continued growth will increase the demand for services beyond current levels. Reducing or maintaining response times will become more difficult. New technology can improve the effectiveness of staff resources, but public safety requires that increased facilities and staffing be provided with new development. Planning for the future should be based on the premise that sufficient facilities should be built to maintain the current ratios of staffing and facilities to population.
- 2. Coordination with Other Services.** Whenever it is more efficient or cheaper, public safety facilities should be coordinated or combined with other facilities. Public safety activities and responses in Durham should be coordinated with other jurisdictions and with State and Federal agencies to reduce risk and enhance resources.
- 3. Community Involvement.** Public safety, particularly crime prevention, is not the sole responsibility of the public safety agencies. Public safety is a shared responsibility that is affected by the actions of many agencies and community organizations.

Goal 12.1, Fire Protection

Provide an effective program of fire protection to maintain a safe environment for Durham's citizens.

Objective 12.1.1. Fire Protection Level of Service Standards, City

Establish and maintain an appropriate level of fire protection in the City as growth-related demand for services occurs.

Policy 12.1.1a. City Fire Protection Response Time. Maintain a 4 minute emergency response time for 80 percent of the calls and a turn out time of less than 1 minute for at least 90 percent of the calls.

Policy 12.1.1b. City Fire Protection Equipment and Staffing. Maintain an engine company travel distance of 1.5 miles and a ladder company travel distance of 2.5 miles, while maintaining an Operations Division staff to population ratio of at least 1:760.

Policy 12.1.1c. City Fire Station Locations. Determine the need for new City fire station sites based on assessments that include, at a minimum, the following factors:

- i. Increasing population and building values in the proposed fire service area;
- ii. Travel distances exceeding more than 1.5 miles for an engine company and 2.5 miles for a ladder company;
- iii. Increases in development activity that would eventually rule out a 4 minute response time; and
- iv. Trends in adjoining service areas toward a rise in the number of calls and increasing travel times.

Policy 12.1.1d. Fire Hydrant System. Reduce the level of risk by maintaining the hydrant system with adequate fire flows.

Objective 12.1.2. Fire Protection Level of Service Standards, County

Establish and maintain an appropriate level of fire protection in Durham County outside the City as growth-related demand for services occurs.

Policy 12.1.2a. County Fire Protection Response Time. Maintain an 8 minute emergency response time for 80 percent of the calls and a turn out time of less than one minute for at least 90 percent of calls.

Policy 12.1.2b. ~~County Fire Station Locations~~ Volunteer Fire Department Stations in Durham County. Determine the need for new County ~~fire station~~ volunteer fire department station sites based on assessments that include, at a minimum, the following factors:

- i. Increasing population and building values in the proposed fire service area;
- ii. Increases in development activity that would extend response times; and
- iii. Trends in adjoining service areas toward a rise in the number of calls and increasing travel times.

Objective 12.1.3. Interagency Cooperation

Maintain high levels of cooperation among all departments and agencies involved in fire protection and emergency services to assure a high level of service in a cost effective manner.

Policy 12.1.3a. Mutual Aid. Continue to implement mutual aid agreements with other jurisdictions and the State.

Policy 12.1.3b. Fire Protection Plan. The City Fire Department and the Durham County Fire Marshall shall develop a long range fire protection plan for comprehensive fire services throughout Durham County.

Policy 12.1.3c. Siting Public Safety Facilities. Establish a cooperative process among jurisdictions for the appropriate siting of public safety facilities, particularly at the boundaries of jurisdictions.

Policy 12.1.3d. Multiple Use Sites. In programming new sites for fire and emergency medical facilities, the City and County shall evaluate the feasibility of the proposed sites to accommodate a combination of uses whenever possible in order to provide services more cost effectively and to create centers for community activities.

Goal 12.2, Emergency Medical Services

Provide an effective program of emergency medical services to maintain a safe environment for Durham's citizens.

Objective 12.2.1. Emergency Medical Service Level of Service Standards

Establish and maintain an appropriate level of emergency medical service protection in Durham as growth-related demand for services occurs.

Policy 12.2.1a. EMS Response Time. The Durham Emergency Medical Services Department shall maintain a County-wide response time of 8 minutes or less.

Policy 12.2.1b. EMS Equipment Needs. The Durham Emergency Medical Services Department shall maintain a ratio of ambulances to population of 1 to 21,500.

Policy 12.2.1c. EMS Alternative Funding Methods. The Durham Emergency Medical Services shall explore supplemental funding methods to improve EMS services in the County.

Objective 12.2.2. Interagency Cooperation

Maintain high levels of cooperation among all agencies involved in emergency medical services to assure prompt emergency response in a cost effective manner.

Policy 12.2.2a. Paramedics at VFD Stations. Maintain agreements to locate paramedics at Volunteer Fire Stations.

Policy 12.2.2b. EMS Mutual Aid. Maintain agreement for first responder assistance from the City Fire Department.

Policy 12.2.2c. Multiple Use Facilities. In planning new stations, the EMS shall evaluate the feasibility of using the sites to accommodate educational programs for citizens and training programs for Staff.

Goal 12.3, Law Enforcement

Continue efforts to prevent, control, and reduce crime.

Objective 12.3.1. Law Enforcement Level of Service Standards

Establish and maintain an appropriate level of service for law enforcement as growth-related demand for services occurs.

Policy 12.3.1a. City Law Enforcement Staffing. Maintain adequate patrols to provide an average response time of 6.5 minutes or less for Priority 1 calls.

Policy 12.3.1b. County Law Enforcement Staffing. Maintain a ratio of sworn officers to the County population (outside the City limits) of 1:316.

Policy 12.3.1c. Mutual Aid. Continue to implement mutual aid agreements with other jurisdictions, the State and Federal law enforcement agencies.

Objective 12.3.2. Shared Roles in Crime Prevention with Other Agencies

Involve other agencies in preventing crime.

Policy 12.3.2a. Crime Prevention Coordination. Coordinate a shared approach with community agencies toward reducing criminal activity through educational efforts that focus on crime prevention by conducting community education programs.

Policy 12.3.2b. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. Ensure the consideration of *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design* (CPTED) strategies in site design through integration of CPTED principles in the Unified Development Ordinance and design guidelines. (See Chapter 4, Community Character and Design Element, Policy 4.4.1d.)

Policy 12.3.2c. Neighborhood Watch and Other Volunteer Programs. Involve neighborhoods in crime prevention, disaster preparedness, citizen volunteer police services and shelter management through the establishment of neighborhood programs.

Goal 12.4, Emergency Management

Provide an effective program of emergency management to maintain a safe environment for Durham's citizens.

Objective 12.4.1. Emergency Management Services

Establish and maintain an appropriate level of emergency management in Durham.

Policy 12.4.1a. Emergency Operations Plan. Maintain and implement an effective Emergency Operations Plan to protect people and property in Durham in times of emergency. The Plan shall delineate roles and establish policies, procedures and responsibilities for public and non-profit agencies at times of emergency.

Policy 12.4.1b. Community and Volunteer Coordination. The Emergency Management Department shall work with the Sheriff's Office, City and County Managers, City's Police and Fire Department, Volunteer Fire Departments, Emergency Medical Services, other agencies and citizen groups, such as the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Amateur Radio (ARES), Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Police Reserves, and Citizen Observer Patrol (COPS), to implement the Emergency Operations Plan and coordinate activities and responsibilities during periods of disaster.

